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Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Yemen: draft resolution

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the indissoluble links between the principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and the foundations of any democratic society,

Recalling its resolutions 49/30 of 7 December 1994, 50/133 of 20 December 1995, 51/31 of 6 December 1996, 52/18 of 21 November 1997, 53/31 of 23 November 1998, 54/36 of 29 November 1999, 55/43 of 27 November 2000, 56/96 of 14 December 2001 and 56/269 of 27 March 2002,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[2] in particular paragraphs 6 and 24 thereof,

Recalling further the declarations and plans of action of the five international conferences of new or restored democracies adopted in Manila in 1988, Managua in 1994, Bucharest in 1997, Cotonou in 2000 and Ulaanbaatar in 2003,

Recalling that the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies focused on democracy, good governance and civil society,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and other important principles, such as respect for the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Expressing its deep appreciation to the Government of Mongolia for the successful organization of the Fifth International Conference,

Bearing in mind that the activities of the United Nations carried out in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate democracy are undertaken in accordance with the Charter and only at the specific request of the Member States concerned,

Taking note with satisfaction of the seminars, workshops and conferences on democratization and good governance convened in 2002 and 2003, as well as those held under the auspices of the Fifth International Conference,

Taking note of the views expressed by Member States in the debate on this question at its fifty-sixth to fifty-eighth sessions,

Bearing in mind that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and on their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Noting that a considerable number of societies have recently undertaken significant efforts to achieve their social, political and economic goals through democratization, good governance practices and the reform of their economies, pursuits that are deserving of the support and recognition of the international community,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the support provided by Member States, the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations to the Government of Mongolia for the holding of the Fifth International Conference,

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[2] See resolution 55/2.

Taking note of the conclusions of the parliamentarians' forum held in Ulaanbaatar on 11 September 2003 and the contribution of the ensuing parliamentary declaration to the proceedings of the Fifth International Conference,

Welcoming the holding of an international civil society forum within the framework of the Fifth International Conference,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] and its focus on the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society[4] adopted at the Fifth International Conference on 12 September 2003,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Welcomes* the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society[4] adopted at the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies, held in Ulaanbaatar from 10 to 12 September 2003;

3. *Encourages* Member States, the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, national parliaments in collaboration with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to the follow-up to the Fifth International Conference and to make additional efforts to identify possible steps in support of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, including those set out in the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. *Recognizes* that the United Nations has an important role to play in providing timely, appropriate and coherent support to the efforts of Governments to achieve democratization and good governance within the context of their development efforts;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the capacity of the Organization to respond effectively to the requests of Member States by providing coherent and adequate support for their efforts to achieve the goals of good governance and democratization;

6. *Stresses* that the activities of the Organization must be undertaken in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Commends* the Secretary-General, and through him the United Nations system, for the activities undertaken at the request of Governments to support efforts to consolidate democracy and good governance, and requests him to continue those activities;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to examine options for strengthening the support provided by the United Nations system for the efforts of Member States to consolidate democracy and good governance, including the provision of support to the President of the Fifth International Conference in his efforts to make the Conference and its follow-up more effective and efficient;

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[3] A/58/392.

[4] A/58/387, annexes I and II.

9. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".